June 2022 Legislative Advocate Report
Prepared by Jennifer Baker, C Abe Legislative Advocate

Legislature Passes Historic Budget

On June 29th, the California Legislature passed the largest budget in the history of any state in the nation, totaling over $300 billion, including $234.4 billion in the General Fund and total reserves of $37.1 billion. Earlier this week the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees reviewed two bills that amended previously approved budget bills, as well as 27 trailer bills to implement the budget. The centerpiece of the budget agreement is a $17 billion inflation relief package which includes tax refunds to millions of Californians, suspension of the state sales tax on diesel, and additional funds to help people pay their rent and utility bills. It also includes $47 billion over multiple years for infrastructure and transportation investments in order to keep the state below the State Appropriations Limit. The significant infusion of additional education funding will move California to the top 15 states in per-pupil funding.

CABE/Californians Together Sponsored Legislation

AB 1868 (Rivas) — Would require local education agencies with specified numbers of Long-Term English Learners to delineate goals and strategies for serving the needs of these students within their Local Control and Accountability Plan. The bill passed the Senate Education Committee with full bipartisan support and has moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee where it will be heard in early August.

SB 952 (Limón) — Would expand the number of schoolwide dual language immersion programs in California. This measure passed the Assembly Education Committee with strong bipartisan support and will be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee in early August.

CABE-Supported Legislation Moves Forward

The following CABE-supported bills have all passed out of the Senate Education Committee and will be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee in early August:

AB 1703 (Ramos) — Would encourage school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to form California Indian education task forces with California Tribes local to their region, or historically located in their region. The bill would also encourage task force participants to discuss issues of mutual concern and requires these task forces to submit information annually to the CDE.
AB 1718 (Boerner Horvath) — Would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to allocate funding for standards-aligned instructional materials in both visual and performing arts and world languages. This would ultimately increase support provided to children in California’s schools regarding visual and performing arts and world languages, while also providing professional development to ensure student success and support.

AB 1777 (Aguiar-Curry) — Would expand education access to migrant students in grades K-8 by ensuring at least two local education agencies can provide continuous school instruction during the summer by allowing the local education agencies to access ADA funding reflecting the enrollment of migrant students. In 2017-18, California had 81,815 migrant students, half of these were English learners. In 2016-17, 74 percent of migrant students did not meet English Language Arts standards, compared to 53 percent of the general student population.

AB 2465 (Bonta) — Contingent upon appropriation, would require the CDE to develop and implement a competitive grant program to local LEAs, library districts, and public libraries to provide a library card to every student enrolled in the LEA. Would require the SPI to encourage all residents to use state libraries, regardless of immigration status as well as would require the CDE to provide information in its website regarding legal assistance and guidance to undocumented students, immigrants and their families. This measure additionally includes numerous comprehensive programs and supports of literacy and biliteracy in schools.

AB 2598 (Weber) — Would require the CDE to develop a standard model to implement restorative justice practices within public schools, as well as making that information available on their website by 2024. Would require the appointment of nine members to an advisory committee by 2023 to assist in the planning and implementation of this standard model. Further, would require school districts to use this standard model by 2024 to implement restorative justice practices to improve campus culture and climate.

Summer Recess

The Legislature will adjourn for Summer Recess from July 1-August 1. Once the Legislature reconvenes in August, they will have until the end of the month to pass all legislation as the last day of the 2022 Regular Session is on August 31st.